



Akron City

January-April 2008

Akron Firefighters Show Their Stuff

INSIDE

Akron's Man With a Plan
Retired Cop Gets New Beat
and MORE!

From the Mayor...



Good things happen every day...

As I look back on 2007, we've certainly had our share of front page news — the new First Energy Headquarters, the decision by Sterling and Infocision to keep the jobs they have and add new jobs in Akron, more new buildings that will employ even more people Downtown and of course, our effort to keep Goodyear in Akron.

As I've said before, keeping the jobs we have and getting more jobs is a priority for your city government these days, because other cities are constantly recruiting our businesses to come to their community. Our successes and our failures on this topic are almost always front page news.

However, over the last 12 months, it was repeated to me again and again that most residents are happiest when their street is in good repair, the snow is plowed, the trash is picked-up on time, clear water comes out of the tap, and when they dial 9-1-1, they get a quick and satisfactory response.

Let me assure you: Service to Akron neighborhoods remains a top priority of those of us at City hall.

What's also true, is that when we do all of these "ordinary" things right every day, it is seldom the subject of the news. For example, I'm especially proud of these "ordinary" achievements by some extraordinary City employees:

Our 3-1-1 call center handled 66,029 calls for service through November 15, and we cleared 95% of them within a standard time.

We brought the police force to its full authorized strength earlier this year, and we will once again hire additional firefighters in the next several months.

Our automated sanitation trucks are getting good reviews in every neighborhood, and since we offered a discount (\$2/month) to recycle, nearly half of all Akron households recycle, an improvement of 30%!

We were honored by the statewide Scenic Ohio group for our vegetative sound wall solution.

Our Public Utility Bureau again scored a gold award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies for strict compliance with our sewage discharge permit (even though there were almost 3,000

distinct opportunities for something to go wrong in the process during the year.)

Akron's Finance Department continues to receive high praise for its budget compliance.

We paved your streets this year, picked up tons of trash, and responded to thousands of 9-1-1 calls for service, and almost in every case, our customers were satisfied with the City response.

There's a reason for that: We have City employees who go to work every day who really do care about making life better for the people who live here. In that sense, they are "extraordinary."

You might not read it on the front page — but we continue to serve the needs of Akron citizens each and every day.

Hope to see your family at Holidayfest, and at First Night. 

All best wishes for the New Year.

Don Plusquellic



Akron City

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Keep Akron Beautiful
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330-375-2116
e-mail: KeepAkronBeautiful@ci.akron.oh.us

Our Cover Photo...

...is **Bruce Ford's** photo of Akron firefighter Jim Diestel as he competes with teammates in Akron's first-ever Firefighter Combat Challenge, held on South Main Street in October. More photos, story, page 10.

Tell us what you think by replying to editor@ci.akron.oh.us

Or share your thoughts with the mayor at mayor@ci.akron.oh.us

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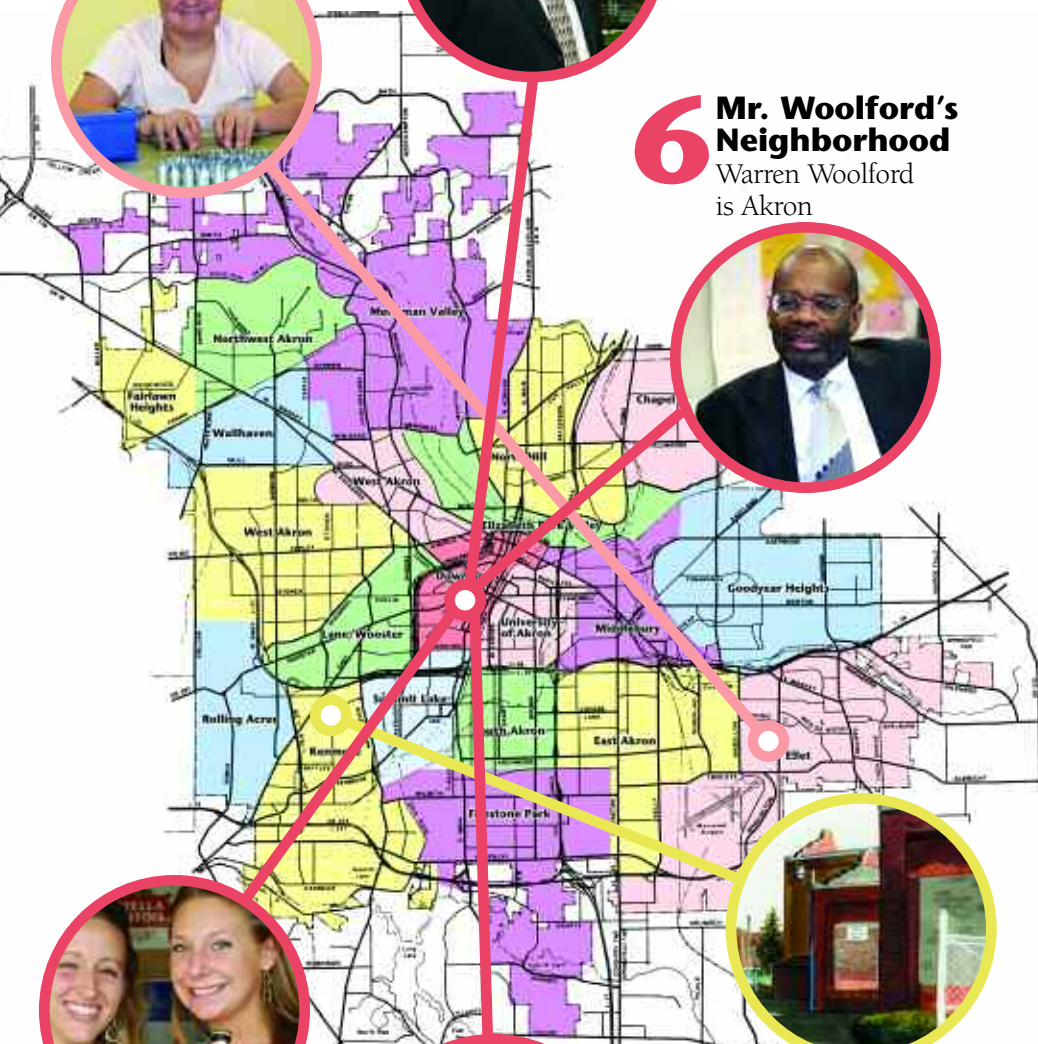
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MRDD/Weaver Industries Gift Gallery

A Great Place for Holiday Shopping!

By Billy Soule

A blaze of color greets customers as they enter the new Gift Gallery operated by Summit County's Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD).

Located on Wedgewood Drive in Ellet next to the Acme store, the Gift Gallery offers a variety of ceramic mugs, plates and dishes, innovative wine-and-dine sets, and more. You'll find placemats, napkins, bibs (for young and old), teapot holders and wall decorations to complement your dining room during the changing seasons.

All items in the shop are handmade in Akron by a group of very special artisans — persons with disabilities who are trained at Weaver Industries to become experts in clay crafting and custom stitching.

The artisans receive 100 percent of the profits from the sale of each item. "We have gotten fantastic reviews from customers," notes Sean Kiniklis, manager of MRDD's specialty business areas.


The store serves several purposes: First, it is a training facility for the MRDD Job Exploration Training Program, which serves persons with disabilities who have an interest in working in the retail field. The program's graduates work at Acme, Giant Eagle, Main Street Gourmet, Target, the University of Akron and at other retail outlets.

Secondly, the Gift Gallery serves as a production workshop that does piecework

and packaging for Akron-area companies. The 15,000-square-foot workshop is housed in the rear of the retail store and is designed to employ up to 75 persons.

Finally, the site will house offices to provide counseling to MRDD consumers and their families and to provide other services to persons with disabilities who are working at the MRDD facility.

The store also features a line of pet products including homemade dog treats. For people, ice cream treats and baked goods are offered by Main Street Gourmet.

The store's hours of operation, which are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., will expand to as late as 7 p.m. during the holiday season. MasterCard and Visa are accepted as well as checks and cash. 



Shoppers check the handmade merchandise at the Weaver Gift Gallery in Ellet, which also houses a workshop for adults with developmental disabilities

City Names First Police Auditor

Goal is to Improve Police-Citizen Communication

By Mary Davidson



Phillip L. Young, Akron's first police auditor, knows he is bound to make some people feel disappointed and others downright angry in his new job. He can live with all of that, he says. His real goal is to make everyone feel they've been heard, treated fairly, and offered respect.

"You should never strip anyone of their dignity," says Young. "If you treat people with respect, fairness and understanding — well, they may not like the decision, but they'll accept it."

Young's appointment, which began in late October, makes Akron only the 12th city in the nation to have a police auditor position.


Since the job of police auditor is new, says Young, its goals are now somewhat flexible, and its duties will evolve over time. In general, Young will provide civilian oversight of police investigations into citizen complaints, and improve communications between citizens and their police force. His responsibilities will include helping to develop procedures and policies that will further enhance police accountability and transparency.

Young, who graduated from South High School in 1971, is a 23-year veteran of the Ohio Highway Patrol. He also attended Kent State University prior to joining the highway patrol in 1982. During his tenure with the patrol, Young served in a variety of capacities, including as a leader of minority recruitment. He spent three years

at the Hiram post before transferring to Akron in 1986. His awards are numerous and include the Robert M. Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award for service on and off the job in 2001. He was also Post Trooper of the Year in 1996. He and his wife Cindy have one daughter who is a student at the University of Toledo.

Young is spending the first six months in his new job developing an outreach initiative to the community and working to refine the scope of his responsibilities. "I'm looking forward to talking to citizens and hearing their ideas and thoughts," Young said. "We want to be a very visible presence."

He also views the position as a chance to foster in the community a better understanding of the difficulties and challenges police officers face every day.

Police will continue to conduct their own internal investigations, Young noted. He added that citizens who wish to make a complaint against the police may now do so at his office on the sixth floor of the CitiCenter building on South High Street downtown as well as at the police department itself. 

AKRON POLICE AUDITOR

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Neighborhoods

North Hill



The Office brings fresh spirit to landmark area


Robert Sberna

Billing itself as a "metropolitan bistro & lounge," The Office has brought a contemporary vibe to the historic Temple Square area of North Hill. Opened in summer 2006 by property developers Steve Turner and Frank Caetta, the business is now owned by Mike Longhitano, who says the martini bar/restaurant is rejuvenating the "spirit of the area."

Located at 778 North Main St. in the heart of Temple Square, the Office's décor features dark woods and accent lights that blend comfortably with the Old World architecture of the surrounding neighborhood. The full menu includes breakfast, sandwich wraps, salads, and dinner entrees. "Our chipotle turkey wrap is outstanding and our burgers are very popular," notes Longhitano.

The Office also offers an extensive wine list and occasional special events, including martini parties, art galas, wine tastings, and live music. "We have a really diversified crowd," Longhitano says. "We get business people and families here. You could bring your kids or your parents here and feel comfortable."

Turner and Caetta are hopeful that other new businesses will open in Temple Square. Through their Temple Square Properties firm, they are redeveloping more than a dozen multi-use buildings in the area. "There's a lot of history and potential here," Turner says. "We believe in this neighborhood."

For more information, visit www.akronoffice.com. 

The Man With A Plan

Come along to Mr. Woolford's neighborhoods

by Mary Davidson

When Warren Woolford drives around an Akron neighborhood, he can't travel a block without being hailed by passersby.

Person after person recognizes his car as he drives down the street. They wave and shout hello; he waves back and calls them by their first names. Sometimes, he stops to roll down the window and chat for a bit.

Woolford, who is director of Planning and Urban Development, is one of the City's most visible and valuable ambassadors to its neighborhoods. His boisterous laugh, warm manner and penchant for stylish clothes are well known in all corners of the City.

"He knows everybody. He's always out in the community," said Marco Sommerville, president of Akron City Council, who has worked closely with Woolford for two decades. "He has the rare ability to connect with everyone from corporate leaders to the average person on the street."

Woolford grew up in Baltimore and attended college there, but came to Akron in 1971 to work on his master's degree in geography. In 1972, as part of that University of Akron program, he was assigned an internship at the City department he now leads. He never left. He was named its director in 1993.

The planning department is headquartered on an upper floor of the Municipal Building on South High Street, but it has employees in three other offices downtown. In all, Woolford leads a team of about 80 engineers, landscape designers, economists and other planning experts.

Planning is a far-reaching department. It



is dedicated to guiding residential, commercial, recreational and community development in the City as well as ensuring a rich quality of life for Akron residents. Everything from transportation and sewers to zoning

and land banking comes under its direction. If you walk on it, drive on it, work in it, or live in it, chances are Warren Woolford and his band of planners had something to do with its development along the way.

"A city needs three things for success: Strong housing, good jobs and thriving communities," said Woolford. "We're committed to supporting all of those areas."

Because Akron is a mature urban area, only about two percent of land in the City is vacant, Woolford said. That poses a considerable challenge in finding space for the new businesses and housing vital to the City's future. And it's a major factor in why the department's efforts are focused largely on rebuilding, remaking, refurbishing and redesigning.

A good example of that philosophy can be seen in southwest Akron, in the Ward 3 neighborhood that once surrounded the old Lane School. The dilapidated school was demolished several years ago and replaced by green space and new multi-bedroom homes. Nearby, three new strikingly designed buildings house the Akron Urban League, the Helen Arnold Community Learning Center and the Vern Odom branch of the library. A cluster of three- and four-bedroom townhomes will soon be available for rent to families with limited means.


Nearly three years ago, federal officials visited the Akron neighborhood to deter-

mine whether to award a grant to the City's housing authority to remake Edgewood Homes, our second-oldest housing project. They were so impressed with the development already underway in the Lane neighborhood that they gave the authority the \$20 million HOPE VI grant even though it had received a similar award just two years earlier.

"Warren has expertise in so many areas of housing and urban planning that it's hard to know where to begin to express his value to the City," said Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic.

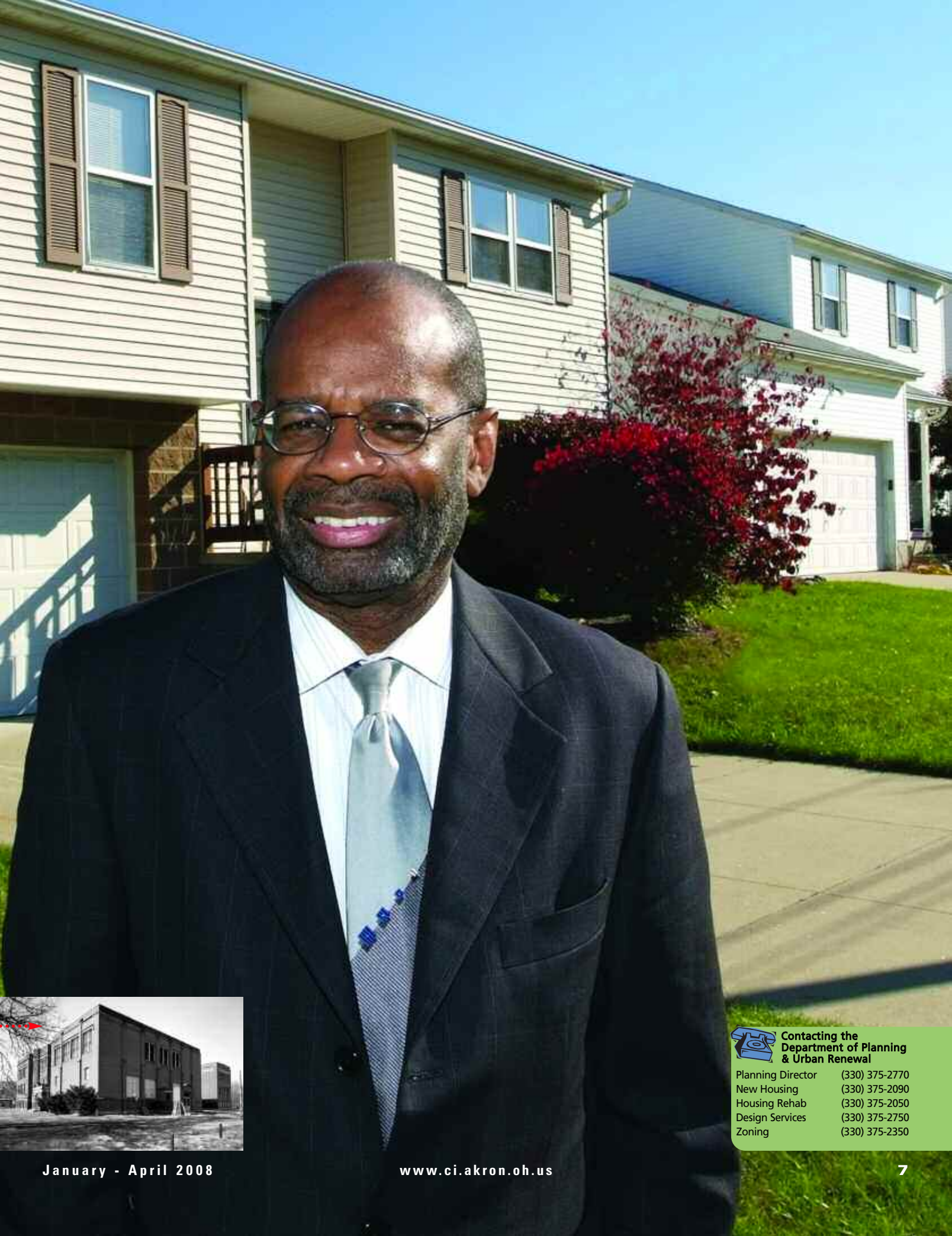
But Woolford and his department aren't immune to controversy. Their mission of remaking the old sometimes conflicts with the desire of some to keep things the same. Recently, the City announced plans to take residential land near the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. for economic development. Although the residents are to be paid more than market value for their homes by the City, some were unhappy at being uprooted. Woolford understands their feelings.

"We try to make it as easy as possible for them in these situations. We try to be very reasonable and fair. We help them with relocation," he said. "Still, it's very difficult when you're talking about people's lives and homes."

"Warren is an extremely caring person," said Mayor Plusquellic. "I believe his real value to the citizens is in how well he knows the City and its people, and how good he is face-to-face with our citizens when he has to confront some tough and emotional issues." 

Warren Woolford is especially proud of the hundreds of new homes built in Akron over the last decade, including developments near the old Lane School (right) which was demolished as part of re-building the entire Ward 3 neighborhood.

Akron City



**Contacting the
Department of Planning
& Urban Renewal**

Planning Director	(330) 375-2770
New Housing	(330) 375-2090
Housing Rehab	(330) 375-2050
Design Services	(330) 375-2750
Zoning	(330) 375-2350

This is A



Bombs - er, uh - Melons Away!
was the cry as kids and adults raised dollars for the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank as part of Homegrown Saturday Morning's first "melon drop" at Lock 3 in September. All fruit destroyed in the drop was donated by farmers and was inedible and unsaleable.



She Left Akron So She Wouldn't Have To Wait Tables, but here she is, passing food at her brand new *VegiTerranean* Restaurant - Akron's own Chrissie Hynde, international rock star and proprietor of the new eatery at Northside, which opened to the public in November.



The New Highland Square Library opened to rave reviews this fall, replacing the old West Hill Branch, and helping to anchor the neighborhood's re-development. The City has created new parking to serve the Library and new retail stores.



AKRON

Photos by Bruce Ford



Ladies in Love... with The Barley House's first annual festival of craft beers, held at Lock 3 Park in conjunction with the Firefighters Combat Challenge in October. Tasting of over 100 brands was available, with proceeds benefiting the Guns 'n Hoses charity for families of safety officers.

Akron Remembers victims of 9-11, first responders, and those still in uniform, at the annual 9-11 ceremonies at St. Bernard Church, with dancers Eric Carvill and Jessica Schroeder (right) and the combined voices of the Unity Gospel Singers, and students from the Lippman Jewish Community Day School and the Islamic Center (below).



Halloween Fun is an annual tradition at the Ellet Fall Festival sponsored at Hyre Jr. High by the Ellet Women's Club. Families enjoyed food, games, and costume contests. The Akron Zoo also brought some friends (lower left) who "snaked" their way through the hallways of the Ellet Community Center.





Several hundred men and women came to Akron October 5-6 from as far away as California to compete in the national trials for the Firefighter Combat Challenge. Competitors had to climb the tower on Main Street, carrying a full coil of hose (above and bottom right), use a sledge hammer to push a weight, and hit a target with a pressurized nozzle. Akron's Jim Diestel (lower left) demonstrates carrying 175 pounds of dead weight. There were also games for kids (right). The Akron team included (L-R top - Joe Bryant, Matt Askea, Rick Berncik, Tom Blasdel, Larry Whystell, Steve Blasdel, and Dist. Chief Tony Law. (Bottom row, L-R) Dist. Chief Dennis Stoneman, Renee Reali, Doug Price, and Dave O'Neal.





Helen Arnold CLC/Urban League HQ Opens Complex is Unique Community/Education Model

In what Mayor Don Plusquellic describes as “a model for America to follow,” the Akron Public Schools, Akron Urban League and the City have not only collaborated successfully, but have achieved a nationwide first.

The newly opened Helen E. Arnold Community Learning Center — conjoined with the new headquarters of the Akron Urban League on Vernon Odom Boulevard — forms a marriage of community and education unlike any other in the U.S.


At the Urban League ribbon-cutting in August, Plusquellic said, “This neighborhood has gone 27 years without an elementary school. The wait is over, and these children will enjoy a close, enriching affiliation with the Urban League. This is the perfect model we believe public education of the future should follow.”

Bringing together the resources of the schools and a strong community-based organization, the complex joins a new

public library a few blocks away, the new Lane Field athletic facilities, and dozens of new homes in completely reborn neighborhoods on Akron’s west side that are attracting families back to the area.

The Urban League’s 38,000-square-foot headquarters is the product of a \$5 million capital campaign. The facility features a 500-seat banquet and meeting hall, on-site catering service, a full-service childcare center, computer laboratories, meeting rooms and more.

Helen E. Arnold is the third building completed as part of the Imagine Akron Community Learning Centers program. The Resnik CLC opened December 18, 2006; and the Voris CLC opened January 10, 2007.

School Superintendent Sylvester Small noted, “We expect schools to now do a great deal more to knit together communities, generations, and the incredible diversity that Akron embraces.” 

Music Director of Helen Arnold School Larry Butler conducts his young choir at opening ceremonies, attended by members of Mrs. Arnold’s family.

Below, WAKR reporter Toni Cicone is greeted at the door by Helen Arnold students who made sure everyone was wearing smiles at their dedication ceremonies. This is the first school in the neighborhood in almost 30 years.



The Legend of Akron's Blue Santa

Rare St. Nick figure dates to 1890s

by Dave Lieberth



like Harry Truman's admonition, "There is nothing new in the world except the history you do not know."

So, here's some history I'm sure you didn't know: The story of Akron's very own Santa Claus, the "Blue Santa."

Let's begin with the story of Christmas in Akron, which really wasn't the "Christmas" we know today, until Akron's German immigrants brought their traditions with them in the late 19th century. They hung stockings by the fireplace, brought an evergreen tree inside to be decorated, and of course, they brought with them the legend of St. Nicholas, or "Father Christmas," or the elf we now call Santa Claus.

A search for manufactured figures of Santa reveals not much imagery before 1900 in the United States. "The oldest figurines we could find were from about 1900," says Michael Cohill, director of the American Toy Marble Museum at Lock 3. "These were paper-mache statues, and only later were ceramic statues of St. Nicholas produced in quantity."

So, what was an earthenware figure in the unmistakable shape of Santa Claus doing buried in the ground at what is now Lock 3 Park?


Part II of our story: During the winter of 2001, the City of Akron demolished a strip of buildings along South Main Street between O'Neil's

and the Civic Theatre to reopen a view of the Ohio-Erie Canal that had not been previously seen by anyone alive today. This 4.5-acre area of vacant land became Lock 3 Park.

Excavation of the site in 2002 revealed thousands of small ceramic toys and pottery shards at the site of the American Marble & Toy Manufacturing Co. whose owner Samuel C. Dyke was truly the founder of the American toy industry, and whose factory operated on Center Street at Lock 3 for 20 years until it burned down in 1904.

Archaeologist Brian Graham excavated the site and inventoried the materials found there. Among the marbles, animal shapes, jugs, thimbles and electric insulators were five shapes of Santa Claus. The most intact of the Christmas objects was covered with a blue glaze — hence, Akron's Blue Santa. Cohill and Graham have dated the object to the mid-1890s, certainly one of the earliest representations of St. Nicholas to be manufactured for mass distribution.

History has a way of doing 360 degree turns, and ending up where it started. Today, the site of the factory — Lock 3 — is the site of the largest and most authentic German Christmas Market in the eastern United States, featuring craftsmen from Akron's sister city of Chemnitz, Germany.

Cohill has engaged ceramic artist Stephen Bures of Elements Gallery in Peninsula to recreate the Blue Santa in porcelain, from a carving prepared by Cohill himself, using the 19th century Akron Blue Santa as a model. The statues are on sale at the History Exhibit at Lock 3 Park. 

The Akron History Exhibit and Toy Marble Museum at Lock 3 is open through Holidayfest. December hours: Tues-Sat, 11-9 and Sundays until 6pm; January hours: Thurs-Sat, 11-9 and Sundays until 6pm.
www.holidayfest.org

Kenmore Marks its 100th Anniversary

Historical Society Plans Activities

By Russ Musarra / Illustration by Chuck Ayers

If this were a fairy tale, it might begin: "There once was a town called Halo..."

This isn't a fairy tale. It's a brief look at Kenmore, which in 2008 will observe the centennial of its establishment along the route of the Northern Ohio Traction & Light (N.O.T. & L.) street railway. But before that historic beginning, Kenmore was called Halo.

Artist Chuck Ayers and I learned that by walking along Kenmore Boulevard. We also learned that Kenmore has its own historical society, which meets at the Kenmore Senior/Community Center at 880 Kenmore Blvd., on the last Monday of each month (except for January, May and December), according to vice president David Bersnak.

Richard Jolly Sr., president of the historical society, is planning activities for the centennial year, including a press conference by Mayor Plusquellic, a Kenmore native son. The society is selling miniature replicas of the town's first school, which opened in 1903 as Kenmore School, and later served as the original Kenmore City Hall. For details about centennial activities, call Lillian Jolly at 330-745-0943, or write to the Kenmore Historical Society at P. O. Box 3707, Akron OH 44314.

The group also has a web site, www.kenmorehistorical.org, that features historical photos, including a milkman on Minnesota Avenue (now 17th Street) in the years between 1905 and 1908. Other photos depict the Colonial Salt Co. around 1909, the intersection of the boulevard and Manchester Road between 1914 and 1917, and the N.O.T. & L. car barns around 1916.

Chuck selected the car barns at 420 Kenmore Blvd. as the focus of his illustration. After all, they symbolize the mandate spelled out in the historical memoir, *Barberton and Kenmore, Ohio: The Golden Years*, written by W. A. Johnston and O. E. Olin and published by the Barberton Historical Society.


That mandate was to "lay out a new town with a 100-foot-wide boulevard along their proposed route

(of a street railway extension between Akron to Barberton)...," wrote Johnston, who was surveyor on the project and joined a group of speculators headed by N. R. Steiner in buying 300 acres that became Kenmore. They paid \$45,000 for the land.

"There was some delay in deciding the name of the new town," Johnston wrote, adding that after some meetings, the name Hazelhurst was selected "in honor of Mr. Steiner's daughter Hazel.... I never learned why Mr. Steiner changed the name to Kenmore."

Johnston did note that Hazel was the wife of department store magnate Bert A. Polsky.

Kenmore was incorporated in 1908, 20 years before it was annexed by Akron.

And the name Halo? Bersnak theorizes that the area might have been named for Halo Salt, which the Colonial Salt Co. once produced. 





New Downtown Suite Spot for UA Students

by Mark Williamson

Students at the University of Akron will soon have more housing choices, with the addition of 150 apartment-style units to be built in the heart of the city.

Construction on the \$25-30 million project will begin this summer, with UA students expected to move in by August of 2009.

And, like the private student apartment complex that recently opened on Exchange Street, the planned UA student apartments will also grace a prominent block of downtown real estate. The new student housing will be situated in the block bounded by Main, High, Exchange and Cedar streets.

The project's developer is Martin Mehall, of Richland Communities, Ltd., of Middleburg Heights. "There is an ever increasing demand here for student housing, and what we're producing is high-quality and market-rate with the wonderful amenities offered by downtown Akron living," said Mehall.

Plans call for 150 units to house 450 students. Mehall explained that the apartment community will include two-bedroom, three-bedroom, and four-bedroom suites. He added that tenants are expected to pay rent only for their bedroom and a proportionate share of

the common area. "That way," said Mehall, "When a student leaves a unit, their former roommates won't have to absorb his or her share."


Every bedroom has its own door lock and its own bathroom. Mehall noted that if someone moves out, the bedroom stays locked until it is rented again.

Units will be completely furnished and

have a full kitchen and private laundry facilities. The rooms will be computer-ready with high-speed Internet access (both wired and wireless), and student rent is expected to range from \$649 to \$749 monthly and to include all utilities. Mehall plans a fitness center, game room, study rooms and other amenities in the complex.

Residents will also enjoy retail space located on the first floor of the four-story units along South Main Street. Apartments located on High, Cedar and Exchange streets will be strictly residential, according to Mehall.

Mayor Plusquellic noted: "The apartment complex will essentially wrap around the block, and there'll be some open space around the office building at 12 East Exchange. But this will provide young adults with housing, entertainment, places to eat, and will offer some retail that might even help them with their studies."

Mehall is expecting the retail space to attract larger regional and national operators. The tenants will most likely be experienced business people who have "done it before," he says. 

Residents will also enjoy retail space located on the first floor of the four-story units along South Main Street. Apartments located on High, Cedar and Exchange streets will be strictly residential



EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

CHARLES H. WALKER, honored in September, joined the Akron Fire



Department in 1992 and spent 13 years as a paramedic. Walker is a graduate of the University of Akron and a 22-year veteran of the Air Force Reserve, where

he is a senior master sergeant and chief flight engineer on C-130 planes. He lives in West Akron with his wife **MARVA** and their son.

August honoree **MALINDA SAMPELL** began her career with the Akron Police



Department in the Planning Research and Development office in 2002. In 2006, she became a City law enforcement planner, where she researches and applies for

grants, then monitors and helps administer them.

CARLA BROWN, the July honoree, has been Akron's Customer Service Request Agent since 2004. A City employee since 1997, she has been a member of the 3-1-1 call center since it opened, answering



queries about City services and activities. During a snowstorm last February, the call center received more than 4,000 calls. On that night, Brown remained at her post when her

work-shift ended, processing 600 calls before going home. She has four children and two grandchildren.


Four Recreation Bureau supervisors – **AUDLEY MCGILL, DAWN STIGGERS-FERGUSON, JOHN HAFFORD** and **JERRY ROWLAND** – were June's employees of the month. No employees were honored in April or May.

McGill joined the bureau in 1987. He became a supervisor in 1996, and was promoted to supervisor II in 2004. A University of Akron graduate, he is girls' head basketball coach for Firestone High School. He lives in West Akron and has a son and daughter.

Stiggers-Ferguson began her career in 1970. She became a supervisor II in 1998 at Elizabeth Park Community Center, and was named district supervisor in 2000. She attended East High School, Ohio

University and the University of Akron, and lives in Goodyear Heights with her husband **KENT**. They have one son. She serves on the Say Yes to Tennis Board and directs peewee football at East.

Hafford joined the bureau in 1979. He became supervisor at Joy Park Community Center in 1989 and was promoted to district supervisor III in 2000. A graduate of Wittenberg University, he played on the 1975 Division III national championship football team. Hafford and his wife **ANGELA** have two children and two grandchildren.

Rowland worked at several playgrounds and community centers before becoming a supervisor in 1978. A graduate of Marymount University in Kansas, he is involved in basketball, peewee football and softball. He lives in West Akron with his wife **ROCHELLE** and daughter. 



Lock and Safe Co. Celebrates its 100th Year

You might say that **JANET HARRINGTON**, president of the J.R. Shoup Co., holds the keys to success. Harrington's firm, located at 77 W. Exchange St., is celebrating 100 years in the key, lock and safe business.




The company was started by **JOHN R. "JACK" SHOUP** in 1908. Harrington purchased the firm in 1988. "Back then, I didn't know much about locks," she says. "But I've educated myself about the many technological changes in this business." 






And The Most Beautiful Flowers in Akron are... **Our children.**

We're planning for their future by:

-  Building Community Learning Centers where schools and neighborhoods can come together.
-  Maintaining parks where kids can run, play (or chase a kite), and
-  Promoting healthy entertainment.

These young dancers took to the stage this summer during the Heinz Poll Summer Dance Festival. Holiday wishes from all of us at the City of Akron! 



Akron City Magazine was made possible through the generosity of these caring sponsors...

